

Assembly Bill No. 847

Passed the Assembly September 5, 2003

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate September 3, 2003

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of
_____, 2003, at _____ o'clock __M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

└

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 31220 of, and to amend the heading of Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 31220) of Division 21 of, the Public Resources Code, relating to natural resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 847, Pavley. Natural resources: State Coastal Conservancy.

Existing law authorizes the State Coastal Conservancy to undertake watershed restoration projects, or award grants for those projects, in order to improve coastal water quality. Existing law requires those projects to do one or more things, such as provide for the purchase and installation of equipment to monitor and map coastal currents to predict and determine areas of contamination and pollutant transport in coastal waters, or acquire, protect, and restore coastal wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and other sensitive watershed lands for coastal rivers.

This bill, instead, would authorize the conservancy to undertake coastal watershed and coastal and marine habitat water quality protection and restoration projects, or award grants for those projects, to improve and protect coastal and marine water quality and habitats. The bill would revise existing project requirements and add additional project requirements.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The heading of Chapter 5.5 (commencing with Section 31220) of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

CHAPTER 5.5. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES
PROTECTION

SEC. 2. Section 31220 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

31220. (a) In order to improve and protect coastal and marine water quality and habitats, the conservancy may undertake coastal watershed and coastal and marine habitat water quality protection



and restoration projects or award grants for those projects, consistent with this chapter. Except for projects described in paragraph (7), (8), or (9), of subdivision (b), the conservancy shall consult with the State Water Resources Control Board in the development of the project or grant to ensure consistency with Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30915) of Division 20.4 of the Public Resources Code.

(b) The conservancy may undertake a project or award a grant for a project under this section only if the project does one or more of the following:

(1) Reduces contamination of waters within the coastal zone, including, but not limited to, coastal and near shore waters.

(2) Protects or restores fish and wildlife habitat within coastal and marine waters and coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, permit coordination projects for watershed restoration.

(3) Reduces threats to coastal and marine fish and wildlife.

(4) Reduces unnatural erosion and sedimentation of coastal watersheds or contributes to the reestablishment of natural erosion and sediment cycles.

(5) Provides for monitoring and mapping of coastal currents, marine habitats, and marine wildlife, in order to facilitate the protection and enhancement of resources within the coastal zone. A project considered under this paragraph shall be implemented in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game.

(6) Acquires, protects, and restores coastal wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains, and other sensitive watershed lands, including watershed lands draining to sensitive coastal or marine areas.

(7) Reduces the impact of population and economic pressures on coastal and marine resources.

(8) Provides for public access compatible with resource protection and restoration objectives.

(9) Provides for the construction or expansion of nature centers or research facilities that emphasize conservation education or research activities focusing on the marine portion of the coastal zone or the land and ocean interface.

(c) Projects funded pursuant to this section shall be consistent with the Integrated Watershed Management Program established pursuant to Section 30947, local watershed management plans, if available, and water quality control plans adopted by the State



Water Resources Control Board and regional water quality control boards, and shall include a monitoring and evaluation component.



Approved _____, 2003

Governor

